

# 2021 ECONOMIC REPORT ST. LOUIS REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The St. Louis Region is comprised of five counties and is located in the east central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, O'Fallon, Chesterfield, and the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Region workforce has more than 1,003,000 employees, making up 35 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 51 percent of the workforce was female and 49 percent was male, which matches the Missouri average. The regional average unemployment rate for 2020 was 6.3 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the St. Louis Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 24 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 24 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 3 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the St. Louis Region, 8 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The St. Louis Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state, but evenly matched to the nation. For the St. Louis Region, 10 percent of the population has a disability compared to 13 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.

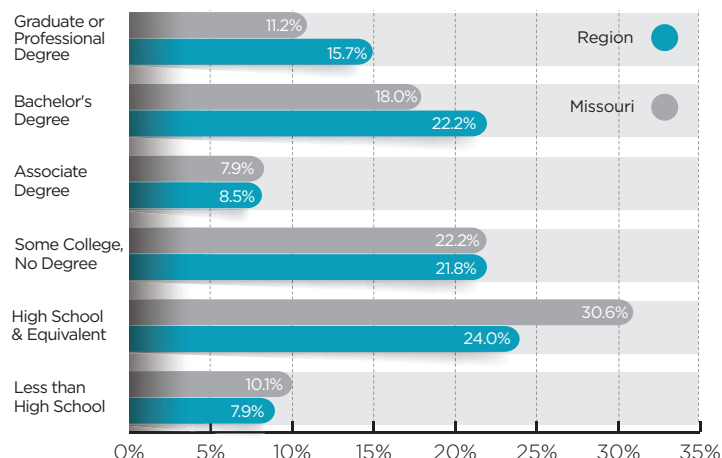
## Workforce Demographics

	St. Louis MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	1,003,072	2,867,162	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.3%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	51%	51%	50%
Male	49%	49%	50%
Non-White	24%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	3%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	24%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	10%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	10%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	8%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	46%	37%	41%

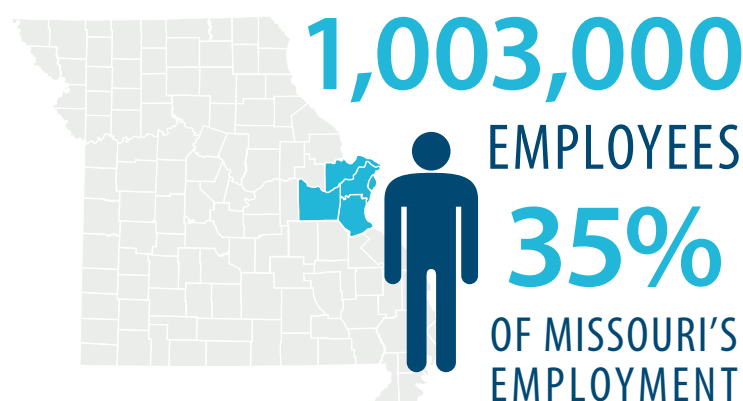
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the St. Louis Region are greater than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty-six percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

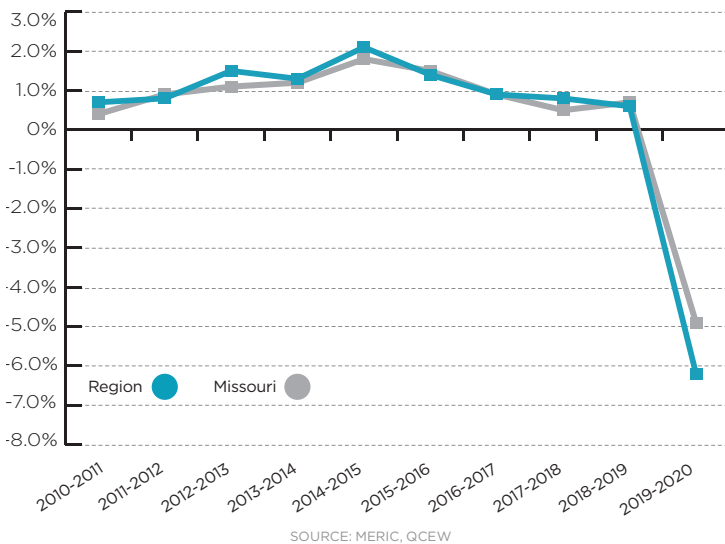


# ST. LOUIS REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The St. Louis Region averaged over 1,012,800 jobs in 2020. The region lost over 66,700 jobs from 2019 to 2020, at a 6.2 percent decline. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the St. Louis Region averaged -1.0 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 4 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

St. Louis Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest employing industry in the St. Louis region, with an employment of over 180,000. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry despite declining jobs at 2.7 percent a year since 2016. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 14,200 jobs in 2020 when compared to 2016. Most of this job loss was due to COVID-19 as this industry was negatively affected by the pandemic.

*Manufacturing* grew at an annualized rate of 0.4 percent. The industry sector with the largest increase in employment was *Finance and Insurance*, with an increase of over 6,800 jobs from 2016 to 2020.

St. Louis Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	175,102	180,069	4,967	0.7%	\$52,812
Retail Trade	115,179	103,444	-11,735	-2.7%	\$34,548
Manufacturing	92,746	94,081	1,335	0.4%	\$75,480
Accommodation & Food Services	100,143	85,925	-14,218	-3.8%	\$22,764
Administrative Support & Waste	82,462	75,096	-7,366	-2.3%	\$47,748
Educational Services	76,541	74,981	-1,560	-0.5%	\$49,620
Professional, Scientific, & Tech. Servs.	70,064	72,239	2,175	0.8%	\$87,252
Finance and Insurance	57,226	64,060	6,834	2.9%	\$94,704
Construction	53,835	54,800	965	0.4%	\$67,980
Wholesale Trade	54,219	54,084	-135	-0.1%	\$80,172
Mngmnt. of Companies & Enterprise	41,895	42,097	202	0.1%	\$108,204
Transportation & Warehousing	35,678	38,938	3,260	2.2%	\$51,300

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The St. Louis Region has higher concentrations in *Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services*; *Management of Companies*; *Chemical Manufacturing*; and *Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions*.



HIGHEST 2020  
LQ 2.9

## DATA PROCESSING, HOSTING, AND RELATED SERVICES

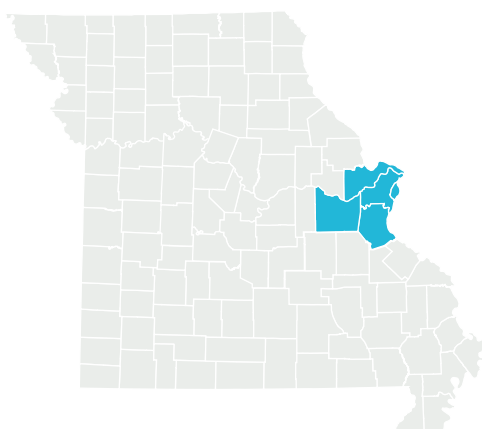
2020 St. Louis Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Data Processing, Hosting, & Related Services	7,501	2.9
Management of Companies & Enterprises	37,924	2.3
Chemical Manufacturing	11,523	2.0
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Instit.	2,734	1.9
Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	3,142	1.6
Securities & Financial Invest. Activities	10,603	1.6
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,221	1.6
Machinery Manufacturing	11,377	1.6
Hospitals	65,532	1.4
Telecommunications	6,866	1.4
Broadcasting (except Internet)	2,407	1.4
Social Assistance	39,899	1.4
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	29,790	1.4
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	23,212	1.4
Postal Service	5,765	1.4

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# ST. LOUIS REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the St. Louis Region will be *Hospitals, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Nonstore Retailers, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Food Services and Drinking Places, and Educational Services*.



St. Louis Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	2018-2028 Numeric	Percent
Hospitals	69,463	80,126	10,663	15.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	47,684	55,162	7,478	15.7%
Nonstore Retailers	5,157	8,828	3,671	71.2%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	65,166	68,616	3,450	5.3%
Food Services & Drinking Places	88,704	92,072	3,368	3.8%
Educational Services	82,403	85,543	3,140	3.8%
Data Processing, Hosting & Related Services	6,265	9,125	2,860	45.7%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	28,651	31,391	2,740	9.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	34,062	36,123	2,061	6.1%
Warehousing & Storage	4,184	5,731	1,547	37.0%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Personal Care Aides*, and *Cashiers* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Home Health Aides*, and *Cargo and Freight Agents* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Cooks*, and *Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Respiratory Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants*, and *Phlebotomists* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers*, and *Accountants and Auditors* will have the most openings. *Physician Assistants, Information Security Analysts*, and *Statisticians* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

St. Louis Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

# ST. LOUIS REGION

## St. Louis Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	30,802	33,644	2,842	2,569	3,169	6,022	\$19,946 ★
Personal Care Aides	26,912	36,536	9,624	2,344	2,078	5,384	\$22,690
Cashiers	23,903	22,305	-1,598	2,062	2,296	4,198	\$22,046
Retail Salespersons	31,298	28,254	-3,044	1,711	2,638	4,045	\$24,292 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	18,932	18,661	-271	1,304	2,303	3,580	\$19,131 ★
<b>NEXT</b>							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	26,049	23,215	-2,834	1,262	1,495	2,474	\$37,246 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	11,607	13,091	1,484	656	1,091	1,895	\$25,217
Nursing Assistants	14,506	15,979	1,473	819	889	1,855	\$25,356 ★
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	12,836	14,104	1,268	555	977	1,659	\$50,327 ★
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	13,016	12,128	-888	765	700	1,376	\$38,240
<b>LATER</b>							
Registered Nurses	33,480	39,121	5,641	1,007	931	2,502	\$64,889 ★
General and Operations Managers	18,980	19,790	810	406	1,277	1,764	\$102,537 ★
Accountants and Auditors	12,347	12,708	361	353	814	1,203	\$70,735 ★
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	7,199	7,547	348	200	508	743	\$72,932
Software Developers, Applications	7,292	8,754	1,462	111	454	711	\$98,176 ★

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

For more information, visit  
[meric.mo.gov](http://meric.mo.gov) or [dhewd.mo.gov](http://dhewd.mo.gov)



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.